

April 3, 2013

To: House Health & Human Services Committee,

David Howard, Chairman

Re: **SB 298**

My name is Betty Hidalgo and I am speaking as a private citizen.

The Children's Trust Fund Board has been and is currently implementing protective factors that address parent education and support, in prevention of adverse childhood trauma/ACE factors in all of their grants.

The Governor of the state has designated the Children's Trust Fund Board to be the lead agency. To administer funds under this title for the purposes identified under the authority of this title, including to develop, implement, operate, enhance, or expand community-based and prevention-focused programs and activities, designed to strengthen and support families to prevent child abuse and neglect.

The Governor of the state provides assurances by signing the federal grant the Children's Trust Fund Board will provide or will be responsible for providing a community based and prevention-focused programs and activities designed to strengthen and support families to prevent child abuse and neglect. The Children's Trust Fund Board has the direction and oversight through identified goals and objectives, clear lines of communication and accountability. These are essentially the same objectives of Senate Bill 298.

Federal funding is based on the population of Montana's children's. The amount of money Montana receives is approximately \$200,000.00 a year. This amount will be decreased by 5% this year due to sequestration. This notice was sent out by Commissioner Brian Samuels in Washington D.C. The Children's Trust Fund Board receives approximately two thirds of their budget from the federal grant. The average grant to the communities ranges between \$15,000.00 with resource centers being \$30,000.00.

I have included the federal requirement (CAPTA Reauthorization Act of 2010 pages 32-39) the Governor must sign off on and the Children's Trust Fund Board is responsible and accountable for fulfilling these requirements as lead agency in your informational packets. The Children's Trust Board is meeting the standards and benchmarks that are mandated in the federal grant, covering what is requested with prevention grants for child abuse and neglect...the support and

education for parents. The needs assessment guides the funding for the Children's Trust Fund Board.

As science changes and evidenced based programs are researched the Children's Trust Fund Board has been on the cutting edge of science for our families. By legislating projects and incorporating other changes we may be endangering our future by having to rewrite legislation. Senate Bill 298 adds another layer of duplication.

In simple terms, please do not fix what is not broken.

Thank you.